

A new species and new combination in *Ochrosperma* Trudgen (Myrtaceae)

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Summary

Bean, A.R. (1995). A new species and new combination in *Ochrosperma* Trudgen (Myrtaceae). *Austrobaileya* 4(3): 387–390. *Ochrosperma adpressum* A.R.Bean from central Queensland, is described as new, illustrated and its known distribution mapped. The new combination *Ochrosperma oligomerum* (Radlk.) A.R.Bean is made. Additional distribution records for *O. lineare* (C.T.White) Trudgen are given. A key to all recognised species of *Ochrosperma* is presented.

Keywords: Myrtaceae, *Ochrosperma adpressum*, *Ochrosperma* - Australia, *Ochrosperma oligomerum*.

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Introduction

Radlkofer (1884) named *Baeckea oligomera*, a species possessing just 5 stamens and a 3-locular ovary with 2 collateral ovules per loculus. He established a new section, *Baeckea* sect. *Pausomyrtus* Radlk., for this distinctive species. The sectional rank was in line with Bentham (1867).

This taxon was named at genus level (as *Ochrosperma*) by Trudgen (1987). The diagnostic features of *Ochrosperma* given by Trudgen were the almost sessile flowers with five antesealous stamens, three-locular ovary with two ovules per loculus and pale coloured, reniform, arillate seeds. Other characters given include the almost terete filaments which are slightly flattened near the base, the ovary adnate to the hypanthium for nearly all its length, and the widely opening fruits.

The new species described here has features agreeing with the above except that the fruits do not open widely, and the number of stamens varies between 6 and 8. However, all stamens are antesealous with one or two stamens opposite each sepal.

Because the new species has a greater number of stamens, a small change in the generic description of *Ochrosperma* is

necessary to accommodate it, as follows: Stamens 5, one opposite each sepal, or 6–8, with two stamens opposite some sepals.

The new combination *Ochrosperma oligomerum* is made in this paper, based on *Baeckea oligomera* Radlk.

Taxonomy

Ochrosperma Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 6(1): 11–12 (1987). **Type:** *Ochrosperma monticola* Trudgen

Baeckea sect. *Pausomyrtus* Radlk., Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Ges. 2: 264 (1884). **Type:** *Baeckea oligomera* Radlk.

1. ***Ochrosperma adpressum*** A.R.Bean **sp. nov.** affinis *O. lineari* a quo foliis valde decussatis, concavo-convexis apice acuto uncinato, floribus staminibus plus numerosis, floribus fructibusque grandioribus differt. **Typus:** Queensland. LEICHHARDT DISTRICT: Mt Minda, Salvator Rosa National Park, 23 September 1987, M.B. Thomas 257 (holo: BRI).

Baeckea sp. 'Mt Minda' Thomas & McDonald, Rare and Thr. Plants of Qld, 2nd ed. 36 (1989).

Shrub 50–80 cm tall. Bark rough, grey and scaly. Leaves linear, straight, concavo-convex, keeled on lower surface, overlapping, 2.5–7.0

× 0.6–1.1 mm, strongly decussate, minutely ciliate on margins, apex acute, sometimes uncinately; petiole 0.3–0.5 mm long. Inflorescences consisting of solitary flowers in the leaf axils; peduncles 0.5–0.75 mm long; pedicels absent; bracteoles 2, persistent, ovate, acute, concave, c. 0.7 × 0.6 mm, in close contact with the hypanthium. Hypanthium with 5 antesepalous ribs, obconical, 2.0–2.5 mm long. Sepals semi-orbicular, longitudinally ridged, translucent, 0.5–1.0 × 0.8–1.2 mm, margins fimbriate. Corolla white, up to 8 mm diam.; petals orbicular, 1.5–2.5 mm diam., margins minutely fimbriate. Stamens 6–8, antesepalous, with either 1 or 2 stamens opposite each sepal; filaments slightly flattened, c. 1 mm long; anthers versatile, dorsifixed, c. 0.5 mm long, dehiscing by longitudinal slits; connective gland

dark brown to black, globular, in diameter about half the length of the anthers. Style terete, less than 1 mm long; stigma broadly capitate. Ovary 3-locular, ovules 2 per loculus, collateral. Fruit shallowly convex, 1.9–2.3 × 3.3–4.0 mm, valves somewhat woody, conspicuous, not spreading widely on dehiscence. Seeds turgid, reniform, papillose, c. 1.4 mm long, pale brown in colour, with a small white aril overlying the hilum. **Fig. 1.**

Specimens examined: Queensland. MITCHELL DISTRICT: 41 km N of Torrens Creek, May 1993, *Thompson* HUG257 & *Turpin* (BRI); near Red Gorge, White Mountains N.P., Jun 1992, *Bean* 4582 (BRI); Sandstone Wall, White Mountains N.P., Jun 1992, *Bean* 4602 (BRI). NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: 6 km NNW of 'Liontown', Just Range area, Nov 1991, *Thompson* 402 & *Robins* (BRI). SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: 49 km NNE of Jericho, Jun 1993, *Thompson* JER76 & *Figg* (BRI); 39 km NNE of Jericho, Jul 1993, *Thompson* JER139 & *Figg* (BRI).

Distribution and habitat: *Ochrosperma adpressum* is known from four widely separated areas of central Queensland: the type locality in Salvator Rosa N.P.; near Jericho; the Just Range south-west of Charters Towers; and the White Mountains N.P. near Pentland (**Map 1**). In all cases, it grows on sandstone ridges with little or no soil development. Associated species include *Melaleuca uncinata* R.Br., *Eucalyptus leichhardtii* F.M.Bailey, *Grevillea sessilis* C.T.White & Francis, *Eucalyptus trachyphloia* F.Muell., *Homoranthus thomasi* (F.Muell.) Craven & S.R.Jones and *Goodenia racemosa* F.Muell.

Phenology: Flowers have been collected in September; fruits in November.

Affinities: *Ochrosperma adpressum* is related to *O. lineare*, but can be readily distinguished by its leaves with a keeled abaxial surface, acute or uncinately leaf apex (obtuse in *O. lineare*), 6–8 stamens (5 in *O. lineare*) and the shallowly-convex somewhat woody fruits (hemispherical and thin-walled in *O. lineare*). The fruit diameter in *O. adpressum* (3.3–4.0 mm) is greater than that in *O. lineare* (2.0–2.6 mm).

Conservation status: *O. adpressum* was listed (as *Baeckea* sp. "Mt Minda"), in Thomas & McDonald (1989) with a category of 1KC. Since that time, the species has been found in several places. It is now known to be present in two National Parks, and while the population at Salvator Rosa N.P. is probably only small, the

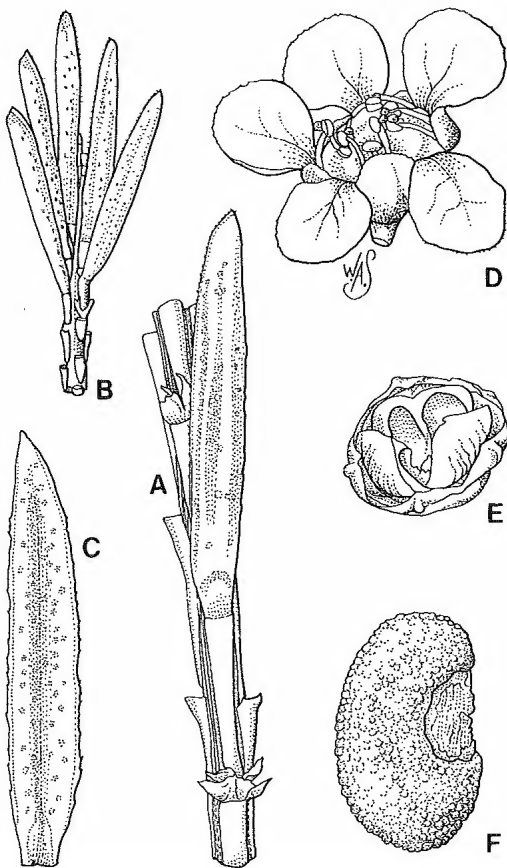
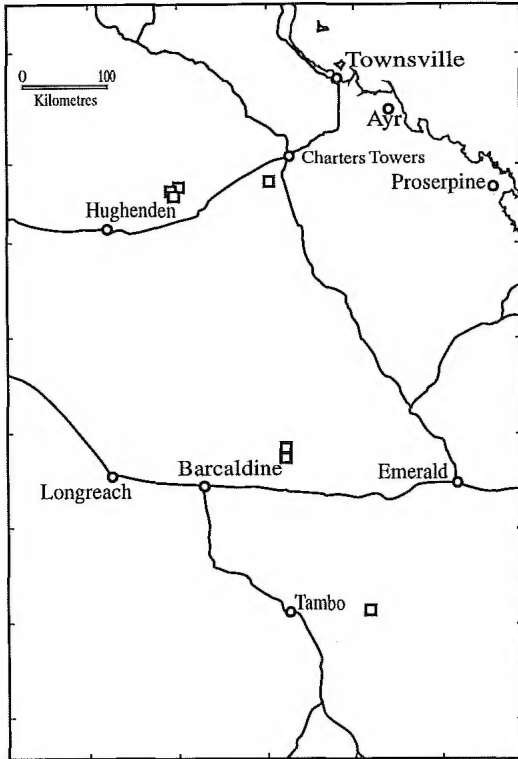


Fig. 1. *Ochrosperma adpressum*: A. branchlet × 8. B. leaves and stem × 5. C. leaf, lower surface × 10. D. flower × 5. E. fruit × 5. F. seed × 20.



Map1. Distribution of *Ochrosperma adpressum* □.

White Mountains population is quite extensive. Therefore no conservation code is thought necessary at this time.

Etymology: The specific epithet is derived from the Latin word *adpressus*, meaning 'lying flat against', and alludes to the closely imbricate leaves of this species.

2. ***Ochrosperma lineare*** (C.T.White) Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 6(1): 12 (1987); *Baeckea linearis* C.T.White, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland* 55: 65 (1944). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT. Tugun, , Sep 1940, *G.H. Barker* s.n. (holo: BRI).

Additional specimens: Queensland. PORT CURTIS DISTRICT: Dismal swamp area, N of Yeppoon, 22°42'S, 150°45'E, Aug 1993, *Sharpe* 5495 (BRI); 17 km from Byfield on track to Five Rocks, 22°46'S, 150°46'E, Sep 1977, *Powell* 875 & *Armstrong* (BRI, K, L, MEL, MO, NSW);

c. 14 km ENE of Byfield, 22°49'S, 150°47'E, Jul 1977, *Clarkson* 1030 & *Stanley* (BRI); Littabella N.P., c. 40km NW. of Bundaberg, 24°38'S, 152°03'E, Nov 1993, *Bean* 7010 (BRI).

Note: The collections detailed above extend the known range of *O. lineare* as given by Trudgen (1987).

3. ***Ochrosperma citriodorum*** (A.R.Penfold & J.H.Willis) Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 6(1): 14; *Baeckea citriodora* Penfold & J.H.Willis, *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 89: 186 (1956). **Type:** New South Wales. NORTH COAST. Five miles [8 km] NW of Port Macquarie, 15 May 1955, *D.K. Hammond* s.n. (holo: NSW; iso: BRI).

4. ***Ochrosperma oligomerum*** (Radlk.) A.R.Bean **comb. nov.**

Baeckea oligomera Radlk., *Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Ges.* 2: 264 (1884). **Type:** New Holland, [in 1823], *Sieber* 512 (holo: M!; iso: B n.v. destroyed; G n.v., photo BRI; W!).

Ochrosperma monticola Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 6(1): 15 (1987) syn. nov. **Type:** New South Wales. CENTRAL TABLELANDS. Currant Mountain Gap, 24 km by road E of Rylstone, 10 August 1975, *R. Coveny* 6619 & *P. Hind* (holo: PERTH n.v.; iso: K n.v., MEL!, NSW!).

Selected specimens: New South Wales. CENTRAL TABLELANDS: Blackheath, Oct 1900, *Hamilton* s.n. (NSW); Glowworm tunnels area, before first tunnel, Wollemi N.P., Oct 1987, *Hind* 5366 (CBG, MEL, NSW); end of fire trail near Cape Horn, Ben Bullen S.F., Oct 1990, *Hind* 6078 (MEL, NSW); Jones Hole, 1.5 mls [2.4 km] NNE of Mt Coricudgy, Apr 1965, *McGillivray & Rodd* 121 (NSW); 8.2 km S of Mt Boonboursa on Gaspers Mtn road, Apr 1983, *Benson* 1425 & *Keith* (NSW).

Typification: All types of *Baeckea oligomera* seen by the present author bear the Sieber number 512, but according to Radlkofer (1884), a specimen of *Hibbertia dentata* R.Br. at B also bore this number. In this instance, the number 512 was evidently mistakenly attached, and other specimens of the *Hibbertia* bear the number 513.

Key to the species of *Ochrosperma*

The following key is adapted from Trudgen (1987)

1. Leaves linear, straight 2
 Leaves elliptic to obovate, usually recurved 3
2. Leaves concavo-convex, adpressed; stamens 6–8 **O. adpressum**
 Leaves flat, spreading; stamens 5 **O. lineare**
3. Flowers c. 2.5 mm diameter; leaves 1.2–3.0 mm long **O. citriodorum**
 Flowers 3.5–5.0 mm diameter; leaves 2.5–5.5 mm long **O. oligomerum**

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